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Attorney Docket No.: 0818.0014C

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the PATENT application of

Jeffrey S. HAGGARD et al.

Serial No: 09/529,391

Filed: June 6, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: Yao, S.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IN LINE SPLITTING OF PLURAL
COMPONENT FIBERS AND FORMATION OF NONWOVEN FABRICS

140/KW
1/29/03

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 12) mailed September 6, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3 and 22-100 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

The following is a clean version of the entire set of claims presently pending, including an amendment to claim 1. The remaining claims 2 and 4-21 remain unchanged relative to their immediate prior version. In addition, the following includes new claims 101-135. Attached hereto is an Appendix containing a version of the amendment to claim 1 with markings showing the changes made.

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--1. (Amended) A method of forming a nonwoven fabric from a process employing fiber splitting in line with fiber extrusion, the method comprising the steps of:

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